

Anchor Point

People and Place

Location

Anchor Point is an unincorporated city in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, approximately 14 miles northwest of Homer. The area encompasses 90.8 square miles of land and 0.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

In 2000, Anchor Point had 1,845 residents in 711 households. All residents live in households rather than group quarters. The gender composition of the community is slightly skewed, at 53.6% male and 46.4% female. The racial makeup of Anchor Point is as follows: White 91.8%, Alaska Native or American Indian (3.4%), Black (0.1%), Asian (0.3%), other (0.6%), and two or more races (3.8%). A total of 6.4% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. Residents of Hispanic origin make up 1.7% of the population. The median age in Anchor Point was 39 years, slightly older than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, 87.4% of residents 25 years of age or older held a high school diploma.

History

Kenaitze Indians, so named by early Russian fur traders, have occupied the Kenai Peninsula area near Anchor Point for thousands of years. The area is historically considered to be Dena'ina Athabascan Indian territory, although archaeological sites on Kachemak Bay suggest the presence of Pacific Eskimo or Alutiiq people as early as 4,500 years ago (Halliday 1998: 183). The present-day community got its name from the 1778 crew of Captain James Cook who, while sailing into Cook Inlet looking for the Northwest Passage, lost an anchor in the strong local tidal currents.

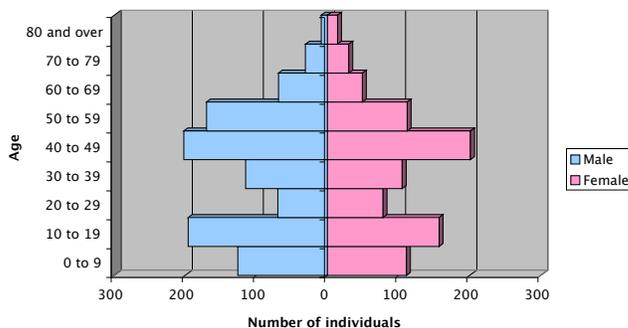
Infrastructure

Current Economy

Commercial and sport fishing activities form the backbone of Anchor Point's economy. The tourism industry is also growing. The North Pacific Volcano Learning Center, a \$22 million facility, is currently under development. The median annual per capita income is \$18,668, and the median household income

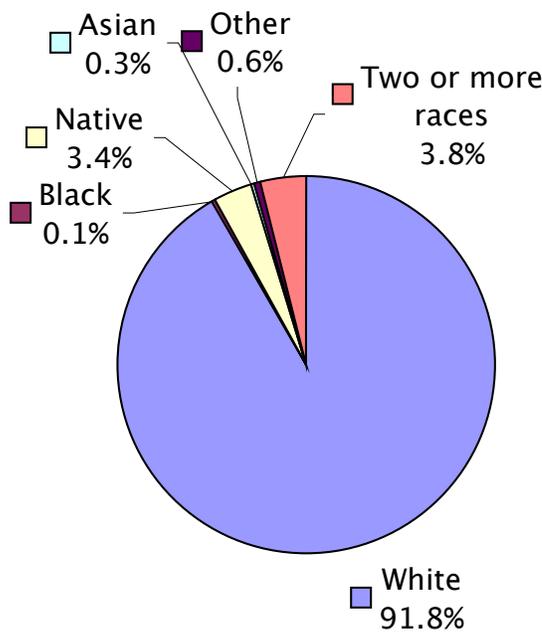
**2000 Population Structure
Anchor Point**

Data source: US Census



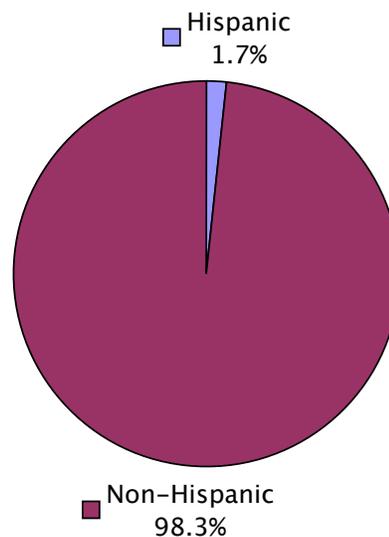
**2000 Racial Structure
Anchor Point**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Anchor Point**

Data source: US Census



is \$41,094. Approximately 8.7% of the total potential labor force is unemployed, and 35.3% of residents 16 years of age and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). Approximately 11.9% of residents live below the poverty level.

Governance

Anchor Point is an unincorporated city under the jurisdiction of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The borough is responsible for the administration of taxes and services. There is a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office and an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office located nearby in Homer. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Anchor Point is accessible by road via the Sterling Highway. Air service and state ferry service, through the nearby city of Homer, connect Anchor Point to other cities in Alaska. Roundtrip airfare from Homer to Anchorage is \$175.

Utilities such as water and sewer are supplied by individuals through wells and septic tanks. Electricity comes from the Homer Electric Association, which generates power at the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Plant and from a gas turbine plant located in Soldotna. The borough provides police services and the city has a volunteer fire department.

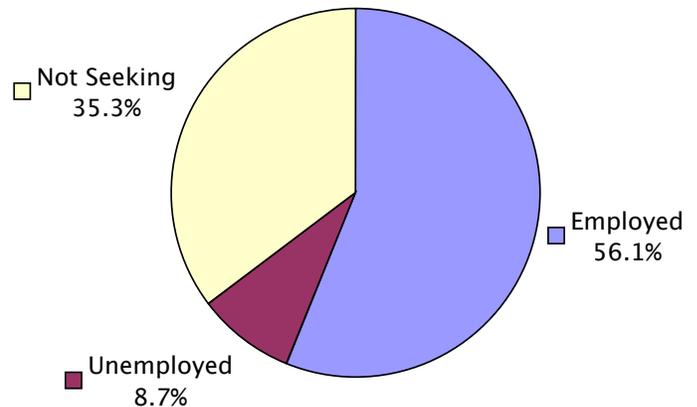
There is one school located in Anchor Point, offering instruction to students from kindergarten through eighth grade. There are a total of 14 teachers and 149 students in the local schools. High school students attend school in Homer.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing*

Commercial fishing, particularly in the salmon and groundfish fisheries, is an important part of the economy of Anchor Point. In 2000, 80 residents held a total of 168 commercial fishing permits for the following fisheries: salmon, halibut, sablefish, other groundfish, herring, and crab. There were 19 vessel owners for federal fisheries and 130 registered crew members residing in the community. The following section contains a detailed description of commercial permits.

**2000 Employment Structure
Anchor Point**
Data source: US Census



Crab: Nine residents held a total of 10 commercial permits in the crab fishery, but none of these permits was fished. A detailed breakdown of crab permits is as follows: one Dungeness crab pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in the westward region; one Dungeness crab ring net permit for Cook Inlet; and 8 Dungeness crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in Cook Inlet.

Halibut: Thirty-three residents held a total of 34 permits for the halibut fishery (24 fished). A detailed breakdown of halibut permits is as follows: 2 halibut hand troll permits for statewide waters (none fished); 19 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (16 fished); one halibut mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished); and 12 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (eight fished).

Herring: Five residents held a total of eight commercial permits in the herring fishery, and only one permit was fished. A detailed breakdown of the herring permits is as follows: one herring roe purse seine permit for Prince William Sound (none fished); one herring roe purse seine permit for Cook Inlet (none fished); one herring roe purse seine permit for Bristol Bay (none fished); two herring roe gillnet permits for Security Cove (none fished); two herring roe gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (one fished); and one herring roe kelp spawn permit for Prince William Sound (none fished).

Sablefish: Fifteen residents held a total of 17 commercial permits for the sablefish fishery, and nine permits were actually fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: 13 sablefish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters

(seven fished); two sablefish fixed gear permits for vessels under 50 feet in Prince William Sound (none fished); one sablefish fixed gear permit for vessels under 35 feet in Prince William Sound (one fished); and one sablefish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished).

Other Groundfish: Twenty-eight residents held a total of 46 commercial permits for the groundfish fishery, and 27 permits were fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one lingcod longline permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), 6 lingcod mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (4 fished), 2 miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll permits for statewide waters (none fished), 23 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (14 fished, one miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), 9 miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (5 fished), 2 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (2 fished), and 2 miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished).

Salmon: Forty-eight residents held a total of 48 commercial permits in the salmon fishery, and 43 permits fished. A detailed breakdown of these permits is as follows: one salmon purse seine permit for Prince William Sound (one fished), 3 salmon purse seine permits for Kodiak (none fished), one salmon beach seine permit for Kodiak (none fished), 5 salmon drift gillnet permits for Prince William Sound (5 fished), 15 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (16 fished), 2 salmon drift gillnet permits for the Alaska Peninsula (2 fished), 5 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol

Bay (6 fished), 10 salmon drift gillnet permits for Cook Inlet (9 fished), 3 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (4 fished), one salmon hand troll permit for statewide waters (none fished), and 2 salmon fish wheel permits for the Upper Yukon River (none fished).

In 2000, there were no fish processors in Anchor Point and no registered landings. Most local vessels make landings to processors in Homer, approximately 15 miles away. In 2002, the Kenai Peninsula Borough was granted \$810 in federal funds to compensate for fisheries losses due to Steller sea lion habitat protection under the Endangered Species Act. In 2003, the Kenai Peninsula Borough was granted \$623,295 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices. A portion of these sums will likely be used for programs that affect Anchor Point.

Sport Fishing

The sport fishing industry primarily revolves around halibut in Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay, but silver, sockeye and pink salmon are also important. Nearby rivers offer fishing for steelhead and Dolly Varden, as well.

In 2000, sport fishing license sales in Anchor Point totaled 3,217, including 2,194 sold to non-residents. There were 26 registered saltwater sport fishing guides and 13 freshwater sport fishing guides in Anchor Point in 2002.

Subsistence

Because of its location on the populous Kenai Peninsula, Anchor Point is not eligible to participate in subsistence fishing in federally managed waters.